

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----117335 191720Z /53

P R 191537Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1646
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS:PFOR, PBOR, TU, GR
SUBJ: INCIDENT IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 5370 (DTG 181345Z JUL 77)

1. HELLENIC AIR FORCE (HAF) SOURCES INFORMED DAO DURING THE "SEA WOLF 77" EXERCISES THAT, BASED ON CONTINUOUS HAF OBSERVATION, NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS BY TURKISH AIRCRAFT OF THE GREEK-CLAIMED TEN-MILE AIRSPACE ABOVE THE GREEK AEGEAN ISLANDS WERE OCCURRING. OUR HAF SOURCES WERE OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED WITH THE TURKISH "VIOLATIONS," ALTHOUGH THEY APPEARED RESIGNED TO WHAT THEY CALLED USELESS "TURKISH PRESSURE TACTICS." APPARENTLY TO MAINTAIN ITS LEGAL POSITION BY REGISTERING A PROTEST TO THE TURKISH ACTION, THE GREEK MIRAGES SCRAMBLED AT LEAST ONCE AND INTERCEPTED THE TURKISH AIRCRAFT WITHIN THE ZONE OF THE GREEK-CLAIMED AIRSPACE. THE GREEKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO KEEP THE INCIDENT QUIET; BUT ONCE THE
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INFORMATION BECAME PUBLIC IN ANKARA (REFTEL), FELT COMPELLED TO RESPOND IN KIND. A DETAILED REPORT ON THE VIOLATIONS IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY THROUGH DAO CHANNELS.

2. THE JULY 19 MEDIA GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH WITH A PREDICTABLY DIFFERENT SLANT THAN THE TURKISH VERSION. MOST PRESS HEADLINES ANNOUNCE THAT GREEK MIRAGES RESTRAINED

A TURKISH AIRCRAFT IN GREEK AIRSPACE. AN "AUTHORITATIVE (GOG) SOURCE" STATED YESTERDAY THAT THE TURKISH AIRCRAFT HAD VIOLATED GREEK AIRSPACE SOUTH OF CHIOS ON JULY 13, HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED BY TWO GREEK FIGHTER PLANES AND ESCORTED AWAY FROM THE AREA. THE GOG SOURCE ALSO NOTED OSTENSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TURKISH MFA SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ACKNOWLEDGING THE HAPPENING AND A STATEMENT BY TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK "THAT NO INCIDENT OCCURRED."

3. THIS TYPE OF QUARRELSOME INCIDENT WILL NO DOUBT BE REPEATED DURING FUTURE MILITARY EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN AREA. SO FAR, BOTH COUNTRIES SEEM CONTENT TO UNDERTAKE ONLY THOSE MEASURES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS--IN THIS CASE THE GREEKS CLAIMING A TEN-MILE AIRSPACE SURROUNDING THE ISLANDS AND THE TURKS REFUSING TO ACCEPT IT. THE POTENTIAL DANGER INHERENT IN SUCH A CONTENTIOUS SITUATION IS OBVIOUS--BUT FORTUNATELY NEITHER SIDE SEEMS PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO UP THE ANTE.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AEGEAN, MILITARY EXERCISES, SEA WOLF 77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS06712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770256-1125
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770745/aaaabmhc.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40741d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 5370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1823874
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT IN THE AEGEAN
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40741d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009